

## BARNES County Soil Conservation District – Never a Dull Moment!

*submitted by Karen Olstad, Eco-Ed Co-Coordinator, Barnes County SCD*

*Students explore wetlands at Eco-Ed Camp.*

The Section 319 projects in Barnes County are off and running for another year. This promises to be another great year for conservation.

### Statewide Eco-Ed Camps

In 2000, the statewide Eco-Ed Camp projects grew to include 30 counties and organizations. Most soil conservation districts (SCDs) in North Dakota are seeing the advantages of presenting a uniform, unbiased program that can be funded by Section 319 and local match.

Previously, most SCDs sponsored a conservation tour for sixth-, seventh- or eighth-grade students. Some were brief, some were boring and most were hard on the sparse district budgets.

Eco-Ed provides the students with workbooks, T-shirts and an interesting, hands-on program. The information is uniform from one district to another, and facilitators are not allowed to interject the views of their individual agencies or sponsors. The only stipulation is that the presenta-

tions be linked to “water quality” – a component of almost every conservation practice used today.

Last year, 3,816 students in North Dakota participated in Eco-Ed. In addition, 564 adults (either classroom teachers or parents/chaperones) attended camps/tours. That makes for a lot of Eco-Ed T-shirts showing up around the state.

Education is the main goal of Eco-Ed. The kids of today will be the parents, teachers, ministers, farmers, white- and blue-collar workers, business leaders, taxpayers and legislators of tomorrow. Eco-Ed will help these future North Dakotans to understand more fully the importance of conservation in their daily lives.

### Sheyenne River Watershed Project

The Sheyenne River Livestock Waste Management Project has been just as active as Eco-Ed. The goal of this project is to reduce agricultural waste impacts in the lower Sheyenne River watershed.

*(Barnes County...cont. on page 2)*

*(Barnes County...cont. from page 1)*

A five-acre natural riparian area adjacent to the Sheyenne River and south of Valley City has been restored. Engineering design was completed, and dirt work was donated by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to remove a poorly designed dike. The North Dakota Forest Service drew up a planting design, and Valley City sixth-grade students planted trees and shrubs. Native grasses were seeded, a canoe landing area was constructed and Voila! -- a "natural" classroom was created for use by individuals and groups from Barnes County. Restoration of this area will greatly reduce sedimentation and riverbank erosion.

Senator Kent Conrad, along with area businessmen, spent a lazy afternoon canoeing from Valley City to the restoration project last summer. At the end of the trip, Senator Conrad commented that the Sheyenne River has a much-overlooked potential in our state for development of fishing and canoeing opportunities.

Through the remainder of the summer and fall, construction on a number of livestock ag-waste demonstration sites continued with the help of the Section 319 Best Management Practices (BMP) Team. Some sites are close to completion and should be in operation by early summer.

The Barnes County SCD has submitted a grant application for the implementation phase of the watershed project. Recently, a full-time watershed coordinator was hired. Next fall, the district hopes to be able to report on the completion of many more projects and improved water quality in the Lower Sheyenne River.

## Watershed Meeting Provides Important Information

*submitted by Dave Frison, Watershed Project Coordinator, Wells County SCD*

A locally led conservation meeting was held in Sykeston Feb. 22, 2001. The purpose of the meeting was to inform producers about programs available to address conservation concerns within the Rocky Run watershed area located in Wells County. Rocky Run Creek is a tributary to the James River. Its watershed encompasses about 123,000 acres of Wells, Eddy and Foster counties.

At the meeting, Jim Collins of the North Dakota Department of Health presented information about water samples that were collected within the Rocky Run watershed during 1999 and 2000. Analysis results show that nitrogen, phosphorus, suspended solids and fecal coliform bacteria all exceeded acceptable levels during spring runoff and after significant storm events. Collins said that the excessively high amount of pollutants found in the year 2000 samples could be attributed to the above-normal precipitation. He also stated that best management practices could be used to help reduce pollutants in the Rocky Run Creek.

Conservation concerns in this watershed area were determined by a landowner/operator survey conducted in 1998 by the Wells County Soil Conservation District (SCD). According to Pam Copenhaver, district conservationist, survey results showed the top five areas of concern as: (1) soil erosion, (2) flooding, (3) weed management/soil salinity, (4) wetlands and (5) soil productivity.

According to Copenhaver, the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) and/or the Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP) are available to producers within the Rocky Run watershed to address these concerns. There are \$51,000 in EQIP funds to be used over the next five years within the watershed boundaries on a number of conservation practices.



*Nearly 50 people attended the February Rocky Run watershed meeting.*

*(Rocky Run...cont. on page 3)*

*(Rocky Run...cont. from page 2)*

Some practices cost-shared under EQIP are the sealing of abandoned wells, grazing plans, dam/floodwater management and manure management. EQIP provides up to 75 percent cost share for approved practices, but application must have been made by April 20.

CCRP can be utilized for buffer strips around wetlands, tree plantings, grass waterways, filter strips and more. CCRP applications are not competitively ranked, and approved practices are generally funded. CCRP provides cost-share and incentive payments that amount to nearly 90 percent of the cost of implementing specific conservation practices.

Dave Frison, Wells County watershed coordinator, discussed the Section 319 project in the Rocky Run watershed. The project is currently in the assessment phase and includes collecting water-quality and land-use data to develop an implementation plan.

During the fall of 2001, a project implementation plan will be submitted to the North Dakota Nonpoint Source Pollution Task Force and, if approved, to EPA Region VIII to obtain federal cost-share dollars in the spring of 2002. These funds will be used to implement best management conservation practices. Local sponsors for the Rocky Run Project are Wells County SCD, Wells County Commission and Wells County Water Resource District. Lead sponsor for the project is the Wells County SCD.

## Water Festival Fun for Dickinson Fifth Graders

*submitted by Tammy Simmioniw, Assistant Coordinator, Dakota West RC&D*

The first annual "Make a Splash" Water Festival brought lots of fifth graders and loads of laughter to the Dickinson Recreation Center last September. This event, sponsored by the Southwest Water Authority, was a great success. Fifth-grade students from a 12-county area were invited. A total of 660 students, teachers and chaperones from 27

*The limbo was used as a fun way to teach students about water quality.*

different schools participated in a variety of educational presentations and hands-on activities about water and other natural resources. An evening event provided an opportunity to get the whole family involved. One hundred fifty-six children and parents attended the family night session.

The goal of the water festival was to help youth understand the importance of water in their lives and how to help maintain or even improve water quality. Funds for the water festival were provided by the Southwest Water Authority, the State Water Commission and the city of Dickinson and through an EPA Section 319 grant administered by the Dakota West and Dakota Prairies RC&Ds.

*Students learned the importance of conserving water through a "baggy clothing" activity.*



## Bus Tour Highlights Zero-Till Farming

submitted by Judi Lang, Dakota Prairies RC&D, Bismarck



Dr. Dwayne Beck, Manager of Dakota Lakes Farm, describing the concept seeder developed at the farm.

Last summer, the Area IV Natural Resource Corporation teamed up with the Manitoba-North Dakota Zero Tillage Association to sponsor a bus tour to the Dakota Lakes Research Farm in Pierre, S.D. Ninety-three participants boarded buses to learn more about zero-till farming concepts, rotations, fertility and residue management.

The tours were offered free of charge to producers, water quality coordinators and others interested in the principles of profitable and sustainable agriculture. Dakota West and Dakota Prairies RC&Ds also contributed to

this event by providing EPA Section 319 grant funds that they administer through the Southwest North Dakota Water Quality Education Project.

The Southwest North Dakota Water Quality Project will be involved in several tours the summer of 2001, beginning with a grazing system tour sponsored by the

Burleigh County Soil Conservation District. This tour will take place at the Steve and Chuck Fetting farm near Wishek, N.D.

Also this summer, the North Dakota Association of Soil Conservation Districts will participate in a sustainable grazing and cropping systems tour.

A "pasture walk" tour is planned at the John Goven farm in Turtle Lake, N.D., and another tour of an agricultural waste system is tentatively scheduled at a site in Morton County, N.D.

### Upcoming Events

*Project WET "Lewis and Clark's Big Muddy"*  
*Missouri River Cultural History Institute*  
*June 24-29, 2001*  
*Western 4-H Camp - Washburn, N.D.*

*Project WET ND Summer Water Quality Institute*  
*July 16-20, 2001*  
*Western 4-H Camp - Washburn, N.D.*

*For more information, contact Jim Collins at 328-5161.*



## State/EPA Nonpoint Source Partnership Established

EPA and the states have joined to form a new Nonpoint Source Partnership to help states implement best management practices and other programs focused on reducing polluted runoff. The partnership, initiated in April 2001, will allow the states and EPA to work cooperatively to identify, prioritize and solve nonpoint source problems. Partnership representatives have formed seven workgroups to focus on specific, nonpoint source issues: (1) watershed planning and implementation; (2) rural nonpoint sources; (3) urban nonpoint sources; (4) nonpoint source grants management; (5) nonpoint source capacity building and funding; (6) information transfer and outreach; and (7) reporting results from nonpoint source projects.

For more information about the State-EPA Nonpoint Source Partnership, visit [www.epa.gov/owow/nps\\_partnership.html](http://www.epa.gov/owow/nps_partnership.html)

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## Project Safe Send Dates and Locations Announced

*submitted by Judy Carlson, North Dakota Department of Agriculture*

Farmers, ranchers, homeowners, businesses or anyone with unusable pesticides can get rid of those chemicals safely and at no charge during July through Project Safe Send.

“We have established 21 collection points across the state, the most ever,” said Agriculture Commissioner Roger Johnson. “This should make it easy for everyone to participate in Project Safe Send.”

Project Safe Send collections are scheduled from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. (local time) at the following dates and sites. All collection sites, except where noted, are located at North Dakota Department of Transportation maintenance yards.

July 9 Garrison  
July 9 Napoleon  
July 10 Watford City  
July 10 Carson  
(Grant Co. Hwy Dept. Shop)  
July 11 Crosby  
July 11 New England  
July 12 New Town  
July 12 Beach  
July 13 Fessenden  
July 13 Richardton  
July 16 Minot  
July 16 LaMoure  
(LaMoure Co. Hwy Dept. Shop)  
July 17 Bottineau  
July 17 Wyndmere  
July 18 Langdon  
July 18 Pekin  
July 19 Drayton  
July 20 Larimore  
July 23 Mayville  
July 24 Valley City  
July 25 Casselton

Johnson urged farmers and ranchers to search their barns, sheds and storage areas for unusable pesticides. “Every year, people bring in DDT, arsenic, mercury seed treatments and other chemicals that have long been banned,” he said. “Project Safe Send is a perfect opportunity to get rid of them.”

He also said that while the program was originally developed to meet the needs of farmers, ranchers, pesticide dealers and applicators, it is open to anyone who has unusable pesticides.

“If you have an old can of bug killer or some dandelion spray that you don’t want, just bring it to one of our collection sites,” Johnson said. “We’ll take it and see that it’s safely destroyed.”

Cleaning agents, solvents, fuels and paints are not accepted.

People who plan to participate in Project Safe Send can call the North Dakota Department of Agriculture (NDDA), toll-free at 1.800.242.7535 for guidelines on transporting pesticides to the collection sites and for exact directions to the sites. The information is also available on the NDDA website at [www.agdepartment.com](http://www.agdepartment.com). Posters with directions to collection sites will be distributed widely, and advertisements with directions will be published in area newspapers.

People with large quantities of unusable pesticides should call NDDA to preregister. Authorized by the North Dakota Legislature, Project

Safe Send is funded largely through the fees paid by pesticide manufacturers to register their products in North Dakota. In the last 10 years, more than 1 million pounds of unusable pesticides have been collected and safely disposed of through the program.

The collections will be handled by Onyx Environmental Services, which will repackage the collected pesticides and transport them out of North Dakota for incineration.

For more information, please call Judy Carlson at 701.328.4997.

### *Project Safe Send Locations*

**Beach** – DOT - east of city limits on the north side of Hwy. 16.

**Bottineau** – DOT - ½ mile east of Bottineau on Hwy. 5, 1½ miles north on Lake Metigoshe Road (east side of the road)

**Carson** – Grant County Hwy. Dept. Shop – north on Main to Railroad Avenue, three blocks west, then two blocks north to gravel, continue around corner.

**Casselton** - Take I-94 Exit 331, north on N.D. Hwy. 18, take frontage road west about ¾ miles.

**Crosby** – DOT - N.E. corner of the N.D. Hwy. 5 and County Hwy. 42 intersection.

**Drayton** – DOT - just east of I-29 interchange on N.D. Hwy. 66 (north side of the road).

**Fessenden** – DOT – south end of Fessenden on east side of U.S. Hwy. 52, next to fairgrounds.

*(Safe Send...cont. on page 6)*

*(Safe Send ... cont. from page 5)*

**Garrison** – DOT - east edge of town on the north side of Hwy. 37.

**LaMoure** - LaMoure County Hwy. Dept. – S.E. corner of town, one block south of intersection of N.D. Hwy. 13 and County Hwy. 60.

**Langdon** – DOT – one mile west of Langdon on N.D. Hwy. 5 (south side).

**Larimore** – DOT - north side of Larimore on N.D. Hwy.18 (west side of the road).

**Mayville** – DOT - from the junction of Hwy. 18 and N.D. 200, go 2 miles south to the edge of town; DOT is on the right side of the road.

**Minot** - DOT - from the intersection of hwy. 83 and 2, go east about 3 miles, DOT is on the east side of Hwy. 2, just north of the Ward County Implement (John Deere dealership).

**Napoleon** – DOT – Take I-94 Exit 208, proceed south on N.D. Hwy. 3 to site, which is ¼ mile south of the city (east side of the road).

**New England** – DOT - ½ mile south of New England at junction of hwy. 22 & 21.

**New Town** – DOT - ¼ mile south of junction of Hwy. 23 and Hwy. 1804 (east side of road).

**Pekin** – DOT – on N.D. 15 in Pekin, south side of road across from the elevator.

**Richardton** – DOT – I-94 to Hwy. 8 to South Ave. (just before the railroad tracks), west to D Street and then south to site.

**Valley City** - DOT - 1524 8th Ave S.W., south of I-94 at Exit 292.

**Watford City** - DOT - on U.S. 85, ¾ mile south of junction of U.S. 85 and N.D. 23.

**Wyndmere** – DOT – from the junction of hwy. 13 and 18, go 2 ½ miles north on Hwy. 18 (west side of road).

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